

SPARTA, N. C.,  
September 1, 1871. }

*Brethren Bodenhamer and Gold.*—

I feel this morning, as if I wished to say something of my trip to the Country Line Association.

I was in company with the brethren in the ministry at their different appointments; the people seemed to have a desire to hear the word of the Lord in its purity. They had large congregations at most of their appointments. We had a pleasant time, though the rocks were tolerably rough in some portions of the country, and the hills very steep, yet for all that, I think I got doubly paid. I got acquainted with many of the dear saints of God, that I never would if I had remained at home. I feel glad that I went with the brethren. I will now give the names of some of the brethren and friends with whom we stopped: The first night we stopped at Mr. W. Parker's; second day, preached at Falls of Tar River. Stayed with Brother Odum, and preached at Peach Tree the third day; fourth day traveled; turned in for the night with Squire Roling, in Guilford county; next day, preached at Suit's School House to a fine congregation; thence to Brother Horner's; stayed all night; Brother Topping preached next day at Tar River. Fell in for the night with Brother Williford, and heard the prettiest singing I ever heard in any family, in my life; himself, wife and four daughters, all Baptists, and another daughter and son who have hopes. This is one family, it seems, that is God's favorite; He has blessed them in basket and in store, and the gift of singing. Preached next day at Camp Creek to a large congregation; three persons gave in on Saturday, several more desire to unite with the people of God; next day at Pine Grove; no meeting house at the place; there was a large crowd not to be on the Sabbath and there was good order among the people. Stayed with bro., D. Moore two nights, and had a pleasant time with him and family, next day at Shiloh, stayed with brother A. N. Hall, a pleasant time with him and family, next day on our way to Storie's Creek. I partly broke down, but happened to be close by a shop; soon was on the road again, stayed all night with brother Obryant, who was a whole sated baptist; next day at Flat River, a large gathering stayed with brother Blalock, next day at Wheeler's, there was a large crowd stopped at brother Malones, next day at the Association, where there was the largest congregation I ever saw at an Association. It was thought their were from 6 to 8 thousand people. I never saw better behaviour in so large a crowd. We stayed with Mr. Pearce & Son, during the Association; we were pleased with their company and with their hospitality. I forgot to say something

about the remarks of an old lady, about our little brother Preacher we had along at Flat River. He preached at that place and she said those elder brethren told him what to say. I think she must be greatly in the dark, God is able to indite matter in his heart; I wonder if she would tell her preachers what to say, if she had the chance? If she wishes to tell preachers what to say, I would say to her to tell her preachers not to preach the do and live system, money and no grace, any longer. I left on the 8th of August, and returned home on the 24th, found all well, my love to inquiring friends and thank them for their kindness: I will here conclude by offering you a few thoughts: Acts 2:28 verses, which read as follows: Thou hast made known to me the ways of life, thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance; what do we understand by these remarks and whom is he speaking to? Is it to the world or to his chosen one in Zion? If he is speaking to the world why do they not adhear to the doctrine of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, but not so he is speaking to Zion the little flock. How do we come in possession of this life here spoken of the Acts of the Apostle? Is it of man or of God? Is it of man? if so the scriptures condemn us, for we are not to put our trust in an arm of flesh, and therefore God has put it in the mind of the Apostle to speak that you be warned of these facts in due time and if the people do not hearken to the facts set forth in the written word of God, they are not believers of the truth as it is in our Lord Jesus Christ, on the other hand if you are in possession of this life here spoken of, you are a believer of the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, you cannot help it, you are made to believe it without your consent; he is the father of all believers in Christ. He will give grace and glory to them that walk uprightly and no good things will be withhold from them, He is God and will do all of his pleasure, yes, he has the right to put you in possession of it as you are of that chosen family chosen before the foundation of the world. From your natural birth up to the time appointed of the father to make known to you the hidden treasure that he, God, has in store for you, he causes you to enter the school of Christ, where his chosen ones learn the way that leadeth to life eternal. Then you remain astonished at that which is done, for no power of yours could have imagined it. Paul to the Romans 1st chapter 16th verse.— For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth to Jews first, and also to the Greeks, 17th verse. For therein is the righteousness of God, revealed from faith to faith as it is written, the just shall live by faith,

so faith is the gift of God, and when you come in possession of that faith which is from heaven you say, with truth that salvation is of the Lord and from no other source can it come, if it comes from any other source it is worth nothing, no man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost. And how can you say that salvation is of the Lord? You have got to know this by being adopted into the heavenly family. See 1st Cor. 12:13 verses. For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body; whether we be Jews or gentiles, whether we be bond or free, and have been all made to drink into one spirit. My dear readers I will here tell you about the Journey I once took with a man whom I once knew. I lived in the old country for some length of time, from some cause or other I had to leave the old country, and travel to a new one which is called the land of Canaan, the promised land and the old man took up the march with me, but was very much grieved at the march though he did not know where he was going, but to follow the young one he would go. While traveling from the old one to the new we had to travel through a desolate place scarcely could we get one foot before the other; sometimes it is called a wilderness this wilderness I think represents the wilderness of sin, many temptations were presented unto us by the wicked one, he is mighty in his own power, but when one comes which is stronger than he is, he has to give back, we see that he tempted our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, after he was baptized by John in the river of Jordan, he, Christ was led away into the wilderness. He was tempted by the spirit for forty days in the Wilderness; some say that it was God that tempted him. I do not say so, for God will not tempt himself, how can he do it, when there are three that form the godhead. The father the Son and Holy Ghost these three are one; so it is imposible for one to offend the other for they bare record of each other in heaven and how can these things be so. After the forty days he hungered here the spirit could not tempt him any longer; so my brethren the children have to undergo the same fiery trials; the spirit is the wicked one which is the devil; so while we were traveling on our journey, he would throw many of his new gins in the way to tempt us and so he will all those that travel through that country, which causes us to grieve and mourn and to lament, the things we once loved we now hate, those things which we hated we now love, the old man would mutter and grumble wishing to turn back, the Journey is becoming wearisome to him, sick and fainty no physician to heal us, not knowing what was the matter one could

not help the other, the disease seemed to grow worse and worse, sometimes we would feel a little better some times would be forced to shed a few tears, how sweet it would feel to one and not to the other and why, because it was better to the old man, he wanted to return back to the country from whence he came, but the young one would not, said he must go on, it would never do to turn back, for it would be death to him. He seemed to have a view of something that is ahead, that the old man did not see and feel, it looked beautiful and lovely though there are many difficulties to pass through and over; when we would meet with them we could not see how we could get along, but there are finger boards all the way ready to direct you safe on your journey, which read as follows: "Look unto me all ye ends of the earth and be ye saved, for I am God and there is none else." Again I am the way the truth and the life, so we march onward to the promise land, though hungry and thirsty we go begging for mercy; no one seems to come to our relief, we hardly can go, head bowed down, mourning and with grieving over a hard heart the old man mutters and grumbles wishing to return back to the old country, while the young one seems to have a desire to go forward and rejoice at his ups and downs. Thou has made known to me the ways of life, we see here one is gaining strength the other is getting weaker, the burden is getting heavier all the while he finds that his strength is failing, and what to do he knows not, when there is no Physician near here he begins to inquire, is there no mercy in store for such a sinner as I am? I know I am vile, I know I am wicked, not worthy to call upon the Lord to have mercy upon such a wretch as I am, I know not what to do, for I see and know I have sinned against a holy and a just God, I am nothing but a sink of sin. I give up all for lost, I have no strength of my own here, Lord I give myself up to thee, for all my power has failed. If thou damn me it is just and right; I have no worth or merit of my own to plead but only to look unto thee. If thou hast any mercy in store for such a wretch as I am, be pleased to bestow it on me if it can meet with thy heavenly and divine will. Here we come to another sign board which reads as follows: All thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children. Again, Come unto me all ye that are heavy laden, and I will give you rest, my yoke is easy and my burden is light; now poor mourning soul are you willing to trust in such a God as this? If so you can find one that is able to help in time of trouble. I will be unto them a God and they shall be my people; here they can begin to rejoice, they